

St. Andrew's (JKP) Monthly Newsletter
August, 2011

Edification: When I hear the words "Iowa Straw Poll" I think of a straw man. When I think of a straw man I think of the scarecrow from The Wizard of Oz. When I think of the scarecrow from The Wizard of Oz I think of his jovial theme song "If I Only Had a Brain". When I think of the jovial theme song "If I Only Had a Brain" I go right back to Iowa and the GOP debate. What were some of those people thinking? So asking Newt Gingrich about his utter inability to manage his campaign staff and finances is a "gotcha question" that is inappropriate? I don't think so. If you can't manage a handful of people and a modest budget (comparatively speaking) how will you run the most complex and wealthy nation on the face of the earth? And how many times do we need to hear the screech from Michele Bachmann that she's going to make Barack Obama "A ONE TERM PRESIDENT"? Then there's Ron Paul. He came in 2nd in the straw poll. Inexplicably he vigorously defended the right of the Republic of Iran to develop not merely nuclear energy, but nuclear weapons. Maybe they just want to be heard - maybe they just want to be respected like we are. That was his defense of that maniacal regime. Can any sober minded person actually agree with that judgment? Apparently so, he finished a close 2nd to Bachmann. With regard to foreign policy Ron Paul is something of an isolationist. He is an anti-interventionist. Once-upon-a-time that may've been a legitimate position. But in the 21st century war has been brought to our shores and the President of the United States is the Commander-in-Chief. He bears the trust of national defense. Can Ron Paul bear such an awesome trust? Could we all sleep well at night knowing that he and his like-minded staff are at the helm of the prow of nations? Or would our inaction, our unpreparedness, our lack of the will to fight transform us into a ship of fools? Ron Paul's hallmark is his consistent appeal to liberty. *Viva la liberty!* Yet in a fallen world where the hearts of ALL men are desperately wicked is it liberty to stick one's head in the sand and hope nobody shoots you in the rear? You know, that might actually be shooting us in the brain! We're really gonna need that scarecrow....

"nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing" 2 Samuel 24:24

Encourage: In Ezekiel 33:6 we're told; *'if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned...his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'* In the sin sick world in which we find ourselves the sword must be met with the sword. Whether in a city, a state, a nation or a private home the force of evil must be met with greater force or evil will advance. This principal applies even at the individual level. The Christian is in a pitched battle daily. We cannot make some supposed "peace-treaty" with the enemy of our soul because he's seeking those whom he may devour, not those with whom he may dialogue and debate. So it is with professedly wicked regimes, like the Republic of Iran of our day. Their madman leader has vowed to make Israel disappear from the face of the earth. He has declared his full intention of using all force at hand to spread destruction. He's convinced that it has fallen to him to usher in the coming of the 12th and final Imam, the Islamic version of the 2nd Coming. His apocalyptic view of his place in history is not at all unlike tyrants of the past who have wreaked havoc, often times because those entrusted with national defense failed that trust. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain assured pre-world war II England that he had secured "Peace in our time" when in reality Hitler and his Nazi blitzkrieg was crouching at their door. Ron Paul doesn't need a brain, he has one. So he's not the scarecrow. My concern is that he's Neville Chamberlain 2011 saying "Peace, Peace" when there is no real peace to be had.